

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

---

---



## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA***

*San Diego, California*

*United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt*

---

---

*For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Edward C. Weiner (619) 557-7125*

---

---

*For Immediate Release*

## **FORMER CUSTOMS/BORDER PROTECTION OFFICER SENTENCED FOR LYING TO FBI**

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - July 7, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced today that Jason Alan O’Neal, a former Bureau of Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBP), was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by Chief Judge Irma E. Gonzalez to a term of three years’ probation and a \$100 penalty assessment for the felony conviction of making false statements to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). As part of his plea agreement executed on February 19, 2008, O’Neal resigned from federal employment and agreed not to seek any federal, state or local law enforcement position in the future.

In connection with his guilty plea, O’Neal admitted that he lied to FBI agents when he stated that he used the Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS) solely in his official capacity as an officer with the CBP. In fact, he admitted that he accessed the TECS database over 100 times in an unofficial capacity to monitor crossings of his girlfriend at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. The plea agreement stated in part: “Defendant’s girlfriend lived in Mexico and was a participant in the Secure Electronic Network for

Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) program and crossed frequently from Mexico into the United States driving a 2006 Land Rover which was purchased for her by defendant in a suspect transaction.”

United States Attorney Hewitt noted “This felony conviction as well as O’Neal’s resignation from Government service reflects this office’s commitment to uncover and deter breaches of public trust.” United States Attorney Hewitt praised the efforts of the Border Corruption Task Force, including the FBI, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security (OIG), the Office of Internal Affairs of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Internal Revenue Service, which participated in the investigation and continue to focus on wrongdoing by public officials.

According to FBI Special Agent in Charge Keith Slotter, “Criminal conduct as well as making false statements to the FBI will not be tolerated by the public from those who are entrusted with the security of our nation.”

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 08cr0400-IEG**

Jason Alan O’Neal

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE**

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2) - False Statements

**INVESTIGATING AGENCIES**

Border Corruption Task Force  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Office of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security  
Office of Internal Affairs, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection  
Office of Professional Responsibility, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Internal Revenue Service